October, 92, foreign investment approvals arc more than 19 times the approvals accorded in the 15 months prior to the policy, that is May, 90 to July, 91.

Incentives for setting up industries in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh

2741. CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government propose to provide special incentives to various organisations and companies/entrepreneurs willing to set up industries in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE. MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO & RURAL INDUSTRIES) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P.J. KURIEN): (a) Promotion of industries in rural sector including tribal area primarily falls within the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government, however, supplements the efforts of the State Governments by way of measures like provision of cheap and easily available finance, transfer of technology, assisting in the provision of scarce and critical raw material and creation of institutional infrastructure at the all India level. In order to disperse industries in rural, semi-urban and tribal areas and to provide all the services and support to small entrepreneurs including those from amongst the tribals, under a single roof 422 District Industries Centres have been set-up covering all facilities to set-up industries in rural and tribal areas and ensure close linkages with agencies engaged in rural development. Such DICs are functioning in the tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh. However, Union Government do not propose any special incentives to various organisations and companies/entrepreneurs willing to set up industries in tribal areas of the country including Madhya Pradesh.

During the Eighth Five Year Plan, the Government proposes to give maximum emphasis on development of rural industries particularly cottage and tiny industries in rural and backward areas including tribal areas.

(b) and (c) Information in respect of number of units/industries set up in tribal areas, the details of such units and number of persons employed there upon is not centrally maintained.

Technology Upgradation Scheme

2742. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI MOHD. KHALEELUR RAHMAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the measures in vogue and are being taken to promote Technology Upgradation Scheme;

(b) whether our exports suffer due to imperfection in quality and incompetitive prices; and

(c) whether at the time of consideration of priority sector, lower interest would be applied to Technology Upgradation Scheme'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT) (SMT KRISHANA SAHI): (a) While the general rate of customs duty on machinery varies from 55% to 110%, the specified itmes of machinery imported for Technology Upgradation in certain specified sectors are exempt from customs duty in excess of 40% *ad-valorem* under Notification No. 317/87-customs dated 17.9.1987. As on March, 1992, financial assistance aggregating to Rs. 352 crore have been sanctioned by financial institutions to 55